key for progress

Instituto Nacional de Aprendizaje – National Training Institute

Institutional Profile

The National Training Institute (INA, for its Spanish acronym) works in order to elevate the productivity of the workers in all the sectors of the economy, by means of actions of formation, training, certification and accreditation for a sustainable productive, competitive and quality labor.

Locations and Facilities

The INA reaches with gratuitous training, highly specialized and with quality all the corners of the country. The central headquarters are located in The Uruca, in front of the Parque de Diversiones (Amusement Park). It also has regional units in: Chorotega Region (it has Centers of Professional Formation in Liberia and Santa Cruz), North Huetar Region (Ciudad Quesada, Public Shop of Río Frío), Central Western Region (Naranjo, Public Shop of Alajuela, Public Shop of Heredia), Central Eastern Region (constituted by the Professional Formation Center: Public Shops of Alajuelita, Cartago, Desamparados, Florida Sur, Hatillo, León XIII, Lomas de Ocloro, Mora, Pavas, Puriscal, Tirrases, Turrialba, Zetillal), Atlantic Huetar Region (Limón, Public Shop of Limón), Central Pacific Region (Barranca, Public Shop of Fray Casiano), Brunca Region (San Isidro, Río Claro).

Legal Foundation

The creation of INA, with the promulgation of the Law # 3506 May 21 of 1965, during the government of Francisco J. Orlich, who obeyed the concern of visionary Costa Ricans by solving, on the one hand the education of thousand of young coming from the labor class that by lacking resources, they could not have access to formal education and on the other, boost the economic development of the time, with an incipient process of industrialization.

Technological Units

In order to achieve the professional formation of the people according to the demands of the labor market, the INA has established an agile and versatile organizational structure that covers all the sectors of the national economy, divided in twelve core or technological units:

- Metalmechanics
- Auto Mechanics
- Electric Sector
- Materials Technology
- Food Industry
- Textile
- Tourism
- Graphic Industry
- Agriculture
- Marine Fishing
- Craftsman Processes
- Trade and Services

International Cooperation

It could stand out the technical cooperation of the Organization of the United Nations Development Program for the Development (UNDP), the Inter American Investigation and Documentation Center on Professional Formation, (CINTERFOR), the International Development Agency of U.S.A. (IAD), the Royal Government of Netherlands, the governments of Israel, Japan, Republic from Taiwan, Korea, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In the field of the technical cooperation the INA has subscribed agreements of reciprocity with high level institutions from Chile, Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador, among other.

GRADUATED AND ENROLLED TECHNICIANS

NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

Technician enrollment by sub sector, 2000-2003

Sub sector / Specialty	Enrollment			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Electrical				
Electricity	2,239	2,406	2,579	2,923
Electronics	1,169	2,460	2,685	2,062
Metal Mechanics				
Industrial Maintenance Mechanics	2,522	1,341	519	627
Precision Mechanics	1,000	1,067	1,787	1,970
Materials Technology				
Plastics	311	584	349	446
Total	7,241	7,858	7,919	8,028

Source: National Training Institute, INA. * = Graduated under training modality.

For a basic program objectives description, please click each program name.

Program Objectives

Electricity

The electricity program has two specialties: Industrial Electricity and Industrial Automation. The first specialty takes 2 years to complete, plus a 6-month apprenticeship, while the Automation specialty takes 1 and half years and no apprenticeship is required. At the conclusion of the training process, the technicians will be able to do the following.

1. Industrial Electricity
    - Repair and maintain electric equipment and operate PLCs, and pneumatic and hydraulic controls.
    - Complete electric installations in AC/DC or three-phase.
    - Working knowledge of basic electronics.
2. Industrial Automation.
    - Pneumatic PLC, electro-pneumatic controls, pneumatics and hydraulic controls.}
    - Three-phase electricity generation and connection.
        - Preventive maintenance and repair of industrial equipment.

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Electronics

The electronics education is divided into three areas: Industrial electronics, Audio and Video electronics and Telecommunications electronics. All three specialties take two and a half years to complete, with the last 6 months an apprenticeship. Their skills are also listed.

1. Industrial Electronics.
    - Maintain and repair industrial electronic equipment with automated regulation, hydraulic, pneumatic and automatic industrial control systems.
    - Maintain and repair electric machines and their control systems.
    - Set industrial power lines.
2. Audio & Video.
    - Maintain and repair AV equipment such as televisions, computer monitors, CD players, etc.
3. Telecommunications.
    - Installation, maintenance and repair of UHF, VHF, and HF equipment.
    - Installation and maintenance of antennas (Satellite dishes and TV).
    - Installation and maintenance of telephones, fax modems, and basic network wiring.

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Industrial Maintenance Mechanics

By the completion of the program, the new technician is able to:

- Maintain industrial machinery in optimal working conditions
- Diagnose, repair, and adjust transmission systems, hydraulic systems, electro-hydraulic systems, pneumatic systems and electric control systems.

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Precision Mechanics

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- Construct machines, motors and other parts made of steel with high and low carbon content, stainless steel, aluminum, and copper mixtures.
- Measurement, drawing, calculations and finishing on conventional machines as well as numerically controlled equipment.
- Do oxyacetylene and lined electrode welding

The program lasts for 2 years, 1 and a half in training and the remaining six months in an apprenticeship.

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Plastics

The student is trained in the transformation, recycling, and quality control of plastics. Upon completion of the program, the students are able to:

- Prepare the raw material formulation
- Operate and control the machines involved in the process
- Recycle waste products and correct deficiencies in the final product.
- Maintain the work area organized and clean, report machine problems, pack the finished product and organize and control production at a mid-level.

The program lasts 2 years, 1 and a half in training and the remaining six months in an apprenticeship.

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